income referred to in Chapter III of the Income-tax Act, which now includes income by way of dividends.

(b) There is no need for any amendment in view of the position of law as stated at (a) above.

Mandrax Trade in India

713. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Mandrax Trade in India is estimated to be more than Rs. 1,500 crore a year and according to INCB Report, Mandrax constitutes a major problem amongst youth of the country; and

(b) if so, the concerted action Government have taken so far against illicit traffickers of drugs and narcotics when our country this year observed on 26th June, 1997, International Day against drug abuse and illicit trafficking?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No precise valuation of narcotic drugs which are often of indeterminate strength and composition and are liable for destruction can be made. Hence the valuation of Mandrax trade in India cannot be estimated, There are no reports/information to indicate Mandrax addiction as a major problem amongst youth in the country.

(b) Action taken by the Government of India to curb trafficking are given as under:-

(i) Instructions have been issued to all the enforcement agencies to maintain the utmost vigil and step up enforcement efforts under the stringent provisions contained in NDPS Act.

(ii) 2/3rd of Indo-Pak border has been fenced and provided with flood lighting.

(iii) BSF and Coast Guards, who are deployed on land and coastal borders, have been vested with powers under the Customs Act to interdict narcotic drugs on the border in addition to the several Central and State Government enforcement agencies empowered under the NDPS Act.

(iv) Training is being imparted to officers to improve their effectiveness. Vehicles and communication equipment have been provided.

(v) Reward scheme for informers and enforcement officers is being implemented zealously.

(vi) Quarterly coordination meetings chaired by DG, NCB are held regularly in New Delhi which are attended by all Enforcement agencies involved in fighting against drug trafficking, at the highest level.

(vii) A bilateral agreement has been arrived at with authorities in Pakistan whereby periodic meetings take place at Secretary level and DG level. Representatives of Indian & Pakistani anti-narcotics agencies have been included in the border meetings of BSF and Pak Rangers. Contact points have been designated by the two countries for direct operational communication.

(viii) A comprehensive bilateral agreement has been entered into by the Govt. of India and the Government of Union of Myanmar for reducing demand and preventing illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs.

(ix) The Govt. of India has provided two drug sniffer dogs and also trained dog-handlers to Myanmar for detection of drugs.

(x) Acetic Anhydride and N-Anthrinilic acid, the precursor chemicals have been declared as controlled substances. All the persons arrested for drug trafficking are liable for stringent punishment under NDPS Act.

कृषि-श्रमिकों, किसानों को "टैक्स नेट" के अधीन लाने का प्रस्ताव

714. **श्री रामगोपाल यादव:** क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार असंगठित कृषि श्रमिकों, बड़े किसानों को "टैक्स नेट" के अधीन लाने पर विचार कर रही है; और